

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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SIL-01 DRC-01 ( ISO ) W

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R 181014Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0164

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8296

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB IS

SUBJ: ISRAEL'S CIVILIAN MANPOWER SITUATION

SUMMARY. CIVILIAN MANPOWER SITUATION, ACCORDING TO LABOR MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL, IS ADEQUATE TO MEET ISRAEL'S DEFENSE AND ESSENTIAL CIVILIAN NEEDS IN NEAR FUTURE. SHORAGES OF HEAVY TRUCKS TO TRANSPORT PRODUCTS RATHER THAN OF LABOR APPEAR TO BE MOST CRITICAL PROBLEM. MINISTRY IS BEGINNING TO PREPARE MANPOWER PLANS TO MEET CONTINUED MARITIME SITUATION, WITH ALTERNATIVE PLANS TO BE DEVELOPED FOR CONTINGENCIES OF ONE, TWO, THREE MONTH PERIODS OF FULL MILITARY MOBILIZATION. DG NOTED THAT EVEN WITH CEASEFIRE TOMORROW, IT WILL TAKE MONTH OR TWO BEFORE CIVILIAN MANPOWER SITUATION IS BACK TO WORK. DG IN PARTICULAR STRESSED TREMENDOUS SPIRIT OF WORKERS IN OFFICES AND FACTORIES, WHOSE PRODUCTIVITY HAS VASTLY INCREASED DURING WARTIME, AND SPATE OF VOLUNTEERS FROM ISRAEL AND ABROAD, MANY OF WHOM CANNOT BE USED. END SUMMARY.

1. IN BRIEFING EMBOFF OCT 17 ON CURRENT MANPOWER SITUATION LABOR MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL AYRAVUR-EL STATED ALLOCATION OF MANPOWER FOR CURRENT WAR INITIATED BY MINISTRY'S GENERAL INSPECTORATE OF MANPOWER FOR EMERGENCY PERIODS UNDER PREDETERMINED SET OF PRIORITIES. IN EVENT OF GENERAL MOBILIZATION, CONFIDENTIAL

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PLANS WERE DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE PERSONNEL IN ACTIVITIES

RELATED TO MILITARY NEEDS AND ESSENTIAL CIVILIAN PRODUCTION AND SERVICES. THESE INCLUDE, INTER ALIA, FACTORIES PRODUCING MILITARY SUPPLIES, FOOD PROCESSORS, HOSPITALS, PUBLIC UTILITIES PORTS, TRANSPORT, ETC. EMPLOYEES IN SUCH ACTIVITIES WORK UNDER EMERGENCY ORDERS, SAME AS MILITARY PERSONNEL.

2. ONE WEEK AFTER WAR STARTED, LABOR MINISTER OPENED CENTERS FOR VOLUNTEER WORKERS TO BE ASSIGNED TO CIVILIAN ENTERPRISES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRIORITY NEEDS. OF SOME 9,000 VOLUNTEERS REGISTERING FIRST THREE DAYS, ONLY 4,000 COULD BE PLACED. THESE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS OUTSIDE LABOR MINISTRY OPERATIONS DOING CIVIL DEFENSE WORK, SOCIAL WELFARE, ETC). VOLUNTEER EFFORTS ARE COORDINATED WITH SPECIAL INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE, HISTADRUT AND EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION.

3. GUR-EL STATED PRESENT MANPOWER SITUATION IS "MORE OR LESS" SATISFACTORY. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF MATERIAL, "WE CAN GO ON FOR MONTHS," HE SAID. MANY ENTERPRISES ARE WORKING AT 25-50 PERCENT CAPACITY BECAUSE OF LABOR SHORTAGES. CONSTRUCTION IS AT VIRTUAL STANDSTILL. BUT IN ACTIVITIES DEEMED ESSENTIAL, THERE ARE NO SERIOUS MANPOWER PROBLEMS. TRANSPORTATION IS A CRITICAL PROBLEM DUE OF SHORTAGE OF VEHICLES, PARTICULARLY TRUCKS WITH CAPACITIES OF FOUR TONS AND OVER. THERE IS ALSO SOME SHORTAGE OF HEAVY DIESEL TRUCK DRIVERS.

4. GUR-EL STATED THAT LABOR MINISTRY, WITH HELP OF UNIVERSITY EXPERTS, IS NOW DEVELOPING EMERGENCY MANPOWER PLANS FOR ONE, TWO, AND THREE-MONTH CONTINGENCIES.. HE SAID HE HAD NO ESTIMATES OF DURATION OF WAR FROM DEFENSE MINISTRY BUT WAS ACTING ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. HE DID STRESS HOWEVER THAT EVENIF CEASEFIRE TAKES PLACE TOMORROW,IT WILL BE A MONTH OR TWO BEFORE CIVILIAN MANPOWER SITUATION RETURNS FULLY TO MORMAL. MOST IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IN COMING MONTH IS SUPPLY OF LABOR FOR HARVESTING OF CITRUS CROPS.

5. HE SAID THAT VIRTUALLY NO ARABS FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAVE WORKED IN ISRAEL SINCE WAR BEGAN. THERE IS NO GOI DECISION NOT TO USE ARAB LABOR DURING WAR. GUR-EL STATED THAT ISRAEL WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM COME, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NOT URGENT NEED, BUT ARABS HAVE STAYED HOME MAINLY DUE TO FEAR. LABOR MINISTRY HAS TAKEN NO ACTION TO ENCOURAGE ARABS TO WORK IN ISRAEL. THEIR

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TRANSPORTATION, HE ADMITTED, WOULD IN ANY CASE BE A PROBLEM ISRAEL ARABS ARE WORKING AS NORMAL, AND MANY HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO WORK DURING EMERGENCY PERIOD.

6. GUR-EL WAS MOST ENTHUSIASTIC IN DESCRIBING SPIRIT OF WORKKERS, WHICH COULD ONLY BE SENSE, HE SAID, BY VISITING FACTORIES. MANY ENTERPRISES HAVE INCREASED OUTPUT AND IMPROVED SERVICES DESPITE LESS WORKERS. IF ONLY THIS SPIRIT WOULD CONTINUE AFTER WAR, HE

WISTFULLY ADDED, ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED.

7. VOLUNTEERS FROM ABROAD, MAINLY US, HAVE GIVEN GUR-EL SPEICAL PROBLEM. HE IS RELUCTANT TO AUTHORIZE ISRAELI MISSIONS ABROAD TO APPROVE THEIR COMING BECAUSE MANY DO NOT HAVE THE SKILLS REQUIRED. EVEN ISRAELI VOLUNTEERS ARE DISAPPOINTED WHEN THEY ARE NOT USED, AND HE JOKED THAT ONE ALMOST NEEDS "PROTEKSIA" (INFLUENCE) TO GET JOB AS VOLUNTEER.

8. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH LABOR MINISTER ALMOGI (WHO LEAVES THIS WEEKEND FOR FUND-RAISING TOUR OF LATIN AMERICA), GUR-EL, IN PRESENCE EMBOFF, REASSURED MINISTER EVERYTING OKAY, DESCRIBED A FEW LOCALIZED PROBLEMS, AND CITED SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF VOLUNTEERS FROM ABROAD WHO CAME FROM AIRPORT TO LABOR MINISTRY EMPLOYMENT SERVICE SEEKING WORK, WHICH MINISTRY CANNOT ALWAYS PROVIDE.

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## Message Attributes

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